

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



PRESENTATION-RECITAL: to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Bach's death

Professor Wolfgang Bottenberg

BACH

Four Letters to Move the World

In 1750, when Bach came to the end of his very productive life, he used as the subject of his last composition the four letters of his name, as if he wanted to put his signature under his life's work. The composition remained incomplete, as was the knowledge of his work. Only gradually did great musicians, among them Mozart, Schumann, Liszt and Brahms, recognize the value of Bach's music, and bring it to the attention of the world. In the process, the fugue subject based on Bach's name attained an almost mythical significance, to be elaborated by generations of composers right into our own time.

Professor Bottenberg will trace the historical and musicological circumstances of Bach's last composition, and its attempted completions or creative elaborations by composers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

To illustrate the lecture, Wolfgang Bottenberg will be assisted by Roger Parton in performances on two pianos of works by Bach, Schumann, Busoni, Pepping, Dallapiccola, and others.



Wolfgang Bottenberg began formal musical studies in 1958, after immigrating to Canada from Germany. With a B.Mus. from University of Alberta, he undertook graduate studies in composition in Cincinnati, Ohio, receiving his Doctorate in 1970. Since 1973, he has taught in Concordia's Music Department, as composer, scholar, and performer. He has written some seventy works in almost all genres, from large-scale choral and orchestral to solo piano pieces. Particularly influenced by Gregorian chant, and renaissance/baroque polyphony, he has been drawn, both as composer and researcher, to the human voice and the experiences tied to singing. His works include *Sonata ave maris stella* for organ, *Overture for Broken Consort*, and *Cunctipotens genitor Deus* for choir and orchestra. In 1993, he published the first scholarly and Complete CD recordings of the musical works of Friedrich Nietzsche.

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 18th, 2001

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oscar Peterson Concert Hall
(LOYOLA CAMPUS)
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